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It takes Manager Neumann to secure the great artists for us. During the month of February Mme. Schumann-Heink was one of the attractions, under his management, that filled Music Hall to overflowing. It is deplorable for a city like Chicago to furnish so insignificant a hall and small seating capacity when such an artist as this great contralto, who appeared anything but dignified, with the platform filled to the right, to the left, and behind her, not to mention the people hanging onto railings, sitting on steps and standing up. There was a small half reception room on the second floor, that might have given rest to a few weary standing souls, but, while the doors stood invitingly open and easy chairs were discernable, yet no one was allowed to enter and rest a few minutes. Oh, that Chicago could afford a hall with at least a small reception room. Central Music Hall days are a thing of the past, and we are forced to submit to cramped quarters, not the best acoustics, and high prices. The proof of Mme. Heink's beautiful voice and wonderful interpretation was that an audience would patiently endure being packed in a hall, insufferably warm and stifling, simply for the pleasure to listen to her glorious voice.

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Under the same management Mr. Bruno Steindel, assisted by Miss Anna Griewisch, mezzo-soprano, and Mrs. Steindel, pianiste, gave his annual violoncello recital. One of the finest audiences greeted the artist. Upon the whole it was one of the best concerts of the season. For March 1 Mr. Neumann has secured the young and gifted Russian pianist, Ossip Gabrilowitsch.

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Wednesday afternoon, February 25, an entertainment was given by Miss Hattie Benedict's morning piano class at her studio, 6249 Monroe avenue, followed by a Story in Music, by Miss Benedict. As a teacher, Miss Benedict is very successful with her pupils.

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Miss Mary Florence Stevens during the months of January and February had a number of successful engagements in song recitals and private musicales. Her pupils are also meeting with approval, one of them singing recently at one of the clubs in a manner highly complimentary to her instructor. Miss Stevens has a number of good engagements for the coming month.

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The fifth artists' recital of the Northwestern University, Evanston (Ill.) School of Music occurred February 16, given by the University String Quartette, Harold E. Knapp, first violin; Lewis R. Blackman, second violin; Alfred G. Wathall, viola; Day Williams, 'cello, assisted by Mrs. Saidee Knowland Coe, pianist. The sixth concert of the Artists' Series will be a recital by

the eminent 'cellist, Mr. Bruno Steindel. It will be given in March.

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Mrs. Agnes Strubble Baldwin sang with fine success before the Illinois Women's Press Association, at the Palmer House, February 5. Mrs. Baldwin's selections were: (a) "Resolve," Fontenailles; (b) "Songs My Mother Taught Me," Dvorak; (a) "With a Violet," Grieg; (b) "Lullaby," Goddard. In Aurora, the last of February, Mrs. Baldwin sang for the benefit of St. Charles Hospital. This was a fine engagement from an artistic as well as financial standpoint. She was also the soloist for the North Shore Congregational people, upon the dedication of their new church on Sheridan road, February 6.

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An interesting musical event will be the appearance of William H. Sherwood and Walter Spry as ensemble pianists. These artists will play the variations for two pianos, by Camille Saint-Saens, on a theme of Beethoven, at Mr. Spry's third Historical Piano Recital, March 12, at Carpenter Chapel, Ashland and Washington boulevards.

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During Mr. William W. Willett's recent appearance in Milwaukee, where he sang with the Arion Musical Society, associated with Miss Shannah Cummings, February 10, the press was most commendable in their notices of his voice, style of singing and enunciation, giving him the credit of being one of the finest baritone singers ever heard in that city, and that his artistic voice is adequate for the interpretation of oratorio or other musical works. He made a tremendous hit in the concert program by his singing. Mr. Willett sang as a substitute for Alfred Williams, in First Presbyterian Church, February 15, before the Kenwood Club, February 26, and is the soloist of the organ recital given by Francis Moore March 1. The program given by Mr. Willett and Miss Charlotte Demuth, as members of the faculty of the Columbia School of Music, evening of January 17, was one of much interest from an artistic standpoint. Mr. Willett's voice appeared to great advantage, whether in the ballad selections or in oratorio. It is an interesting study also, to listen to him, as aside from a beautiful quality of voice which seems to increase in richness of tone, his enunciation is exceptionally distinct and his management of tones and phrasing fine. His climaxes are always certain and true in expression. Miss Demuth, a player whose violin tone is beautifully pure and faultless, and whose intonation is almost phenomenal, did not seem to be wholly in touch with her music, or to be in her best playing mood. Upon the whole, it was a concert to be remembered for its intrinsic value and the pleasure it afforded the audience.

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Evening of February 18, at Fullerton Hall Art Institute, under the direction of the managers of the Jackson Park Sanitarium, Miss Anne Shaw Faulkner gave a lecture-recital on "Bayreuth and the Wagner Festival." Miss Faulkner, who is exceedingly natural and sincere in all she does, gave a clear and concise talk upon the above mentioned subject, illustrated with beautiful stereopticon views and accompanied by the following selections: Prelude and Rainbow Bridge and Finale, "Das Rheingold;" Spring Song, Ride of the Walkure, Watan's Farewell and Magic Fire Scene, "Die Walkure;" Waldwaben, and Brunnhilda's Awakening, "Sieg-

fried," Siegfried and the Rhine Maidens; Siegfried's Death March, "Die Gotterdammerung." Mrs. Louise Hess-Fuchs, piano; Miss Josephine Driggs, Aeolian Orchestrelle, and Mr. Leopold De Mare, French horn. The whole was unique in entertainment and must have been the means of goodly financial gain to "La Rabida," which is the home for so many sick babies and poor mothers of Chicago. The audience was one of influence and composed of some of the best people of Chicago, among which were many personal friends of Miss Faulkner, who have watched with interest the steady advancement of this young girl in her chosen line of work.

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The first program of the Auditorium popular concerts heralded the month of February with a fine program and a full house. Each succeeding concert only proved a repetition, as the programs were at every concert up to the first standard and therefore compelled the interest of the people. The first concert had for soloists Emil Leibling, whose playing was a revelation. Herman De Vries' singing was also a surprise, but not of as an agreeable order as that of the pianist. Mr. Leibling is a player for large halls and large audiences. His playing being of the brilliant order, he is at his best when something of greater importance arouses his musical temperament to fine effort. The concert of the 22d was entirely operatic in selections, with Richard Wagner especially well represented, sung by four of our local soloists, Mr. Holmes Cowper and Mr. Crampton singing unusually well.

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Monday evening, March 23, the fifth and last concert of the series of the Apollo Musical Club will take place in the Auditorium. On this occasion a new work which has not been produced in this country will be sung by chorus and soloists. Edward William Elgar, the composer, has given musical setting to Cardinal Newman's poem, "The Dream of Gerontius," which affords an opportunity for varied and dramatic writing. It was originally written for the Birmingham Musical Festival of 1900, and immediately attracted wide attention. Elgar is among the foremost of English contemporary writers. "The Dream of Gerontius" is a cantata describing the vision which came to Gerontius, the Briton, when lying upon his deathbed. The work has been compared to Parsifal. The soloists will be Jenny Osborn Hannah, Evan Williams and Gwilym Miles.

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A much-needed agency recently established in Chicago is that of Mr. James F. McCullough for teachers of any department in public or private schools.

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At the Music Teachers' class of February 21 a musicale half hour was given by the baritone, E. A. Emery, who gave the "Persian Love Song," by Colyn, as an introductory number, followed with selections from the composers, Masse, Nicolo, Hiller, Loewe and Brahms. The room in which the musical was given was insufferably hot and stuffy. The curtains were closely drawn to give, I suppose, according to the ideas of the owner of the room, a more artistic effect, but fresh air would have been more artistically acceptable. How Mr. Emery managed to sing in the fine way he did is a musical mystery. As a singer he is exceedingly natural and

easy in manner, and his interpretations are unusually fine. The Brahms and Loewe numbers were given with fine shading, enunciation and sentiment.

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Voices, harmonious, well-modulated and trained for their work, are those of the American Lady Quartet, with Mme. De La Barre, director and soprano. The quartet was organized some four years ago, and since that time have filled engagements from the Gulf of Mexico, in fact, throughout the North, West and South. They are special favorites at Chautauquas and all large assemblies. They are all fine musicians, and have been coaching with Mr. Clemen B. Shw, who has accomplished some fine work with a body of singers, which will certainly do him credit. The quartet leaves in a few weeks for Central Illinois, to fulfill an Easter engagement.

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The Racine News, in writing of Miss Jeanette R. Holmes' recent appearance before the Racine Women's Club, says: "An interesting meeting was held yesterday afternoon. Those who were present were, indeed, fortunate, as they heard the rendition of one of the best programs given by the club for some time past. The program consisted of a number of beautiful selections by Miss Jeanette R. Holmes, of Chicago, who sang songs of one hundred years ago, and in four different languages."

* * *

Miss M. Jenette Loudon announces a series of three mornings of chamber music to be given at the residence of Miss Emma G. Smith, 5247 Lexington avenue, on Thursdays, February 26, March 12, and March 26, at eleven o'clock. Miss M. Jenette Loudon, piano; Mr. Otto Roehrborn, violin; Mr. Hermann Diestel, violoncello; Lillian French Read, soprano, were the musicians of the first concern, with a program selected from Goring-Thomas, Fontenailles, Hervey, Beethoven, Godard, Goltermann, Massenet, Nevil, Tschaiowsky. March 12 Miss Jeanette R. Holmes will be the vocalist.

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Mr. Edgar B. Gordon, violinist, plays at the University of Chicago this month in concert. Mr. Gordon is a most successful artist, and one would like to hear him oftener, but a most flattering increase in his classes occupies most of his time, even his evenings as a teacher. Mr. Gordon is also arranging a pupils' recital to be given in the near future.

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Miss Blanche Sherman, pianiste, gave a recital before the Musical Club of Cleveland, Ohio, last month, and is now in New York filling recital dates, and will return via Akron, Ohio, where she also plays.

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A pupil of Miss Wycoffs, Miss Eloise Petrie, gave a song recital evening February 18, at the Baldwin Ware-rooms. The assistants were Miss Newton and Messrs. Wycoff and Colburn. Miss Jean Burgess, accompanist.

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Under the direction of the Auditorium Conservatory a dramatic entertainment was given by pupils of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dickson, evening of February 5. A song recital by senior pupils in the vocal department was given February 12. Pupils of Sig. Beduschi, Mr. Croxton, and Mrs. Zimmerman sang.

Among Mrs. Ada Markland Sheffield's engagements, we mention that of Feb. 7, with W. C. E. Seeboeck at Kankakee; February 19 with the Mendelssohn Club, of Chicago; March 30 at Aurora, Ill., with the Theodore Thomas Chicago Orchestra; at Des Moines March 31, and April 1 she has an engagement with the same organization at Marshalltown, Iowa.

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Word comes from New York that Eleanor Spencer is confining her playing to only private musicales, that Dr. Mason is putting her through a hard drill, and that he is very complimentary in his opinion of her ability and musical future.

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The Amateur Musical Club concert February 2 was an open meeting, and February 16 and March 2 has for assisting artist Mr. Vernon Arnalle, baritone. Mr. Francis Rogers, of New York, will give a recital before the club March 16.

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Miss Bertha E. Collom, recently located in Fine Arts Building, has during the past month been doing some beautiful work for the different music publishers in the way of covers for sheet music. Some were in three colors, others in wash drawings for half-tone reproduction, others in conventional scroll designs and in typical scenes illustrating the piece.

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Evening of February 12 Mrs. Fanny Church Parsons gave an interesting talk upon Harmony. Mrs. Parsons' easy and natural manner in explaining the different points, how they are made simple so that the merest child comprehends, was given in an impromptu manner that is wholly her own and exceedingly effective and convincing. Mrs. Parsons is so busily occupied with her local as well as a large correspondence class, that it is a treat exceptional that one has the pleasure of listening to her.

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The comic opera, "Dolly Varden," libretto by Stange, and music by Edwards, which had a two weeks' run at the Illinois Theater, was one of the two best comic operas (the other being "Pickwick"), given here this winter. Of course it was the Lulu Glaser Opera Co., and Lulu Glaser was the star, and was especially good in the part of Dolly Varden, and as to voice, there were others far better. For instance, Harry Girard, who personated Captain Richard Belleville, the young lover, and Edward Matrindale as Lieutenant Craggsby, of the English Navy, were fine singers, both in cultivation and quality of voice. It was at an informal musicale given by Mrs. Cole at Hotel Majestic, that one had a far better chance to judge of the real merits of their voices than could be possibly given when singing in their roles in the comic opera. Song after song from ballad to oratorio, and also some of Mr. Girard's own compositions, were given in a manner that demonstrated fine musical temperament and cultivation.

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February 3, in the Anne Morgan Studios, a piano recital was given by Miss Priscilla Carver, assisted by Mr. Christ, baritone, who sang beautifully, both in style and execution. One of the songs was composed by Miss Carver in a few short hours. The song only further proved what was demonstrated in her playing, that her talent is far beyond the average, and that with the same careful training she is now receiving, she will no doubt be one of the few pianists of the future. She is a direct descendant of the original Priscilla Carver, has

been nurtured and educated with the greatest care, has a fine physique, and the fire and dramatic temperament combined with close application, which makes the artist. The studio was beautifully decorated with American Beauty roses, which made an appropriate setting for the fine Weber grand piano and lovely young musician. February 26, in the same studio, Miss Hazel Everingham will give a piano recital. Both are pupils of Mrs. Annette R. Jones, who seems fortunate in bringing out in her pupils all the latent talent and ability.

February 26 an Illustrated Lecture was given by Frederick Grant Gleason, director of the Chicago Auditorium Conservatory, assisted by members of the vocal department. The recital occurs too late to give a detailed account in these columns.

Thursday, February 19, the Evanston Musical Club gave its third concert on Thursday evening at the First Methodist Church. Sullivan's "Golden Legend" will be given with orchestra and the following soloists: Mrs. Jenny Osborn Hannah, soprano; Miss Mabelle Crawford, contralto; Mr. Glen Hall, tenor; Mr. William Howland, baritone. The cantata will be preceded by Mendelssohn's violin concerto in E minor, played by Earle Waterous.

Mr. Charles Manners, of the Moody-Manners Opera Company, who has done so much for English opera, announces a season of grand opera at Covent Garden, commencing August 24. Mr. Manners wishes any surplus funds to be used to start a fund for National Opera. Himself and wife will give their services. He also agrees, if any losses occur, he will be responsible. The new works produced at Festivals in England are as follows: At Worcester Dr. Walford Davies' oratorio, "The Temple," Mr. Hugh Blair's "Song of Deborah and Barak," and Mr. A. H. Brewer's "O! Praise the Lord," at Sheffield Dr. Coward's "Gareth and Linet" and Mr. Coleridge-Taylor's "Meg Blane," at Norwich Dr. Cowen's "Coronation" Ode, Mr. Fred. Cliffe's "Alcestis," and a cantata, "Werther's Shadow," by Mr. A. Randegger, Jr. At the same Festival Sir C. V. Stanford's "Irish Rhapsody," Mr. Arthur Hervey's overture, "Youth," and Sir. A. C. Mackenzie's suite, "London Day by Day."

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